

Appl. No. 10/804,483
Amdt. dated: May 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The spice mill of ~~claim 1~~ claim 10, wherein the inner grinding teeth are pressed downwards onto the lift seat by a spring.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The spice mill of ~~claim 1~~ claim 10, wherein the inner grinding teeth are provided with a bore for receiving the rotary peg of the shaft seat, and the bore and the rotary peg each have a polygonal cross section.

Claim 9 (original): The spice mill of claim 8, wherein the bore and the rotary peg each have a rectangular cross section.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A spice mill comprising:

- (a) a housing for holding material to be ground;
- (b) a shaft seat connected to a lower end of the housing, the shaft seat being provided with a rotary peg that projects downwardly from the shaft seat;
- (c) inner grinding teeth having a circular arrangement and displaceably connected to the rotary peg, wherein the inner grinding teeth may be driven in a radial direction by the rotary peg;
- (d) a fixed seat positioned below, and rotatably attached to, the shaft seat;
- (e) outer grinding teeth having a circular arrangement and being positioned in proximity to an outer periphery of the inner grinding teeth, wherein the outer grinding teeth are rigidly held within the fixed seat;

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(f) a lift seat positioned below the inner grinding teeth and provided with a plurality of outwardly extending spokes, each of the plurality of spokes being received by one of a plurality of guide grooves provided on an inner wall of the fixed seat;

(g) a rotatable seat positioned below and connected to the lift seat, whereby rotation of the rotatable seat leads to vertical displacement of the lift seat;

(h) a convex annular bead arranged on an outer wall of the rotatable seat; and

(i) a concave annular groove located on an inner wall at a lower end of the fixed seat and being sized to receive the convex annular bead, whereby insertion of the convex annular bead into the concave annular groove results in rotatable connection of the rotatable seat to the fixed seat;

wherein the inner grinding teeth are displaceable in an axial direction relative to the outer grinding teeth by means of the lift seat and the rotatable seat, wherein the lift seat is further provided with a central bore for receiving the rotary peg and a downwardly extending threaded peg that may be screwed into a threaded bore provided in the rotatable seat, wherein the rotatable seat comprises an adjustment ring able to be engaged from an exterior of the mill, wherein rotation of the adjustment ring is transmitted to the threaded bore provided in the rotatable seat and, by way of the threaded peg, is converted into an infinite vertical movement of the lift seat along a central axis, and whereby the inner grinding teeth are moved vertically towards or away from the outer grinding teeth to change the fineness of ground particles produced by the mill.